

# BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

**OFFICE GYNECOLOGY**—Robert H. Glass, MD, Associate Professor in Residence, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California, San Francisco. The Williams & Wilkins Company, 428 E. Preston St., Baltimore, MD (21202), 1976. 280 pages, \$24.95.

Dr. Glass has produced an excellent textbook with the publication of *Office Gynecology*. A look at the contents is enough to assure the reader that most of the problems encountered in daily office practice have been identified. To present the individual subjects, Dr. Glass has assembled an outstanding group of authors who are well known and acclaimed for their expertise in the subject area.

Each chapter is presented in a concise and easily readable fashion. The emphasis is on the practical aspects of the problem and its management. In so doing, the content is less didactic and academic than the usual textbook but is complete enough for most practitioners. This does not detract from the reference, but, I believe, enhances its value to practitioners because the most important recent research advances are presented in an understandable fashion and integrated into a practical approach to the problem. For those who are interested in more detail, a representative bibliography is available for each chapter.

I would urge all who have gynecological patients in their offices to read this textbook. It is not a reference to be placed on a shelf and looked at occasionally, but a practical approach to everyday problems and their management which can be used daily by all physicians treating women.

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**THE PATHOLOGY AND SURGERY OF THE VEINS OF THE LOWER LIMB**—Second Edition—Harold Dodd, ChM(L'pool), FRCS (Eng), Emeritus Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital(London) Group, Royal London Homeopathic Hospital, King George Hospital, Ilford and Royal Hospital, Richmond; and Frank B. Cockett, MS(Lond), FRCS(Eng), Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, London. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 323 pages, \$39.50.

The second edition of *The Pathology and Surgery of the Veins of the Lower Limb* like the first edition is a classic in its field. The previous edition has served for 20 years as the comprehensive text dealing with venous disease. It has been popular both in Europe and in America.

The new edition is timely because of new developments in vascular disease which aid immeasurably in the diagnosis and management of venous abnormalities. New advances which have occurred in phlebography or venography, Doppler flow studies and radioisotope methods have been very helpful in detecting the incompetent perforating veins and have led to a better understanding of the causes of chronic venous insufficiency.

The techniques of venography and ultrasound, coupled with pulmonary angiography and lung scanning, have also led to a much better understanding of the frequency and nature of pulmonary embolism.

Emphasis is placed on the role played by incompetent ankle perforators, particularly the three primary internal perforating veins that account for most venous ulcerations and venous insufficiency. The point that venous

drainage of the superficial tissues in the erect exercising leg is inward to the deep veins via the perforating or communicating veins is a point that many surgeons fail to appreciate even today. The failure to recognize the important role of the incompetent perforating veins and the causes of venous insufficiency and venous ulceration accounts in part for the poor results in the surgical management of venous ulceration.

The detailed descriptions of the pathophysiology of venous disturbances and the clear illustrations of surgical procedures and of the anatomy of the veins represent as lucid and informative descriptions as are available today. The section on history of venous disease is illuminating and interesting. The section on thromboembolism covers the new developments in both the detection and management of this disorder. The management of peripheral deep vein thrombosis and the control of thromboembolism are discussed, as well as the postthrombotic syndrome—the latter discussion containing many helpful measures needed to deal with a syndrome that can be very distressing.

This fine volume should be an important part of the library of any surgeon who deals with venous disease.

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**EPIDEMIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IN WARM CLIMATE COUNTRIES**—The Late Robert Cruickshank, CBE, MD, FRCP, FRCPE, DPH, FRSE, Hon LLD(Aberd), Formerly, Professor of Bacteriology, University of Edinburgh; Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of the West Indies, Kingston; Kenneth L. Standard, MB, BS(Lond-UCWI), MD(Lond), FFCM, MPH, FRSH, FAPHA, Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of the West Indies; Hugh B. L. Russell, MRCS, LRCP, MFCM, DTM&H, DPH, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Formerly, WHO Regional Public Health Officer, Eastern Mediterranean; Regional Adviser on Community Development, Southeast Asia, and WHO Liaison Officer with the Economic Commission for Africa; Foreword by Professor E. K. Cruickshank, OBE, MD, FRCP, FACP(Hon), Dean of Postgraduate Medicine, University of Glasgow. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman Inc., 19 West 44th Street, New York City (10036), 1976. 492 pages, \$18.50 (paper), \$32.00 (cloth).

Many of the major diseases of warm climate countries today are those prevalent in the western world more than 50 years ago. Their importance, severity and even manifestations differ when present in developing countries. This information needs dissemination by experts—those who have studied the diseases in the disadvantaged and developed societies. In this book the epidemiology and control of diseases in developing countries, and selected aspects of community health ranging from sanitation to training of health workers, are discussed by 28 authors, many internationally known in their fields. The results range from excellent to dreadful.

The introductory chapters are unsatisfactory, too simple for persons with any background in epidemiology, yet too diffuse for those unfamiliar with epidemiologic terms and methods. Organization is unusual. For example, chapters 4, 28 and 38 deal with different aspects of malnutrition. A study of cervical cancer in Jamaica is out of place in a book with all other chapters devoted to review articles which are descriptive of conditions in more than one area. The choice of material for inclusion or exclusion is also surprising. For example, an early chapter details computer analysis for health planning—